

**Report of the State Preserves Advisory Board
2011-2012 Biennium**

**Iowa State Preserves Advisory Board
And
Conservation and Recreation Division
Iowa Department of Natural Resources**



Introduction

The State Preserves Advisory Board was created by the General Assembly in 1965. The Act (Chapter 465C, Code of Iowa) defines preserve as “an area of land or water formally dedicated under this chapter for maintenance as nearly possible in its natural condition though it need not be completely primeval in character at the time of dedication or an area which has unusual flora, fauna, geological, archaeological, scenic, or historical features of scientific or educational value”. An area becomes a State Preserve when the landowner and the Preserves Advisory Board agree on the management of the area and the Governor signs the Dedication Statement.

Preserve designation provides an area with the highest form of protection the State of Iowa offers. Preserve status is considered the highest, best, and most important use of an area for the public benefit. The area shall be held in trust and not converted except to another public use upon a finding of the Preserves Advisory Board of imperative and unavoidable public necessity and with the approval of the Natural Resource Commission, the General Assembly by concurrent resolution, and the Governor.

The State Preserves System is an effort to protect and maintain examples of significant archaeological, historical, geological, biological and scenic areas for present and future generations. The five types of preserves are defined as follows:

1. *Archaeological* preserves contain significant deposits left by prehistoric or early historic peoples.
2. *Geological* preserves contain distinctive, representative or unique geological features or deposits.
3. *Historical* preserves contain structures or places that are of significance in studying the tenure of humans in Iowa since the advent of the first Euro-American explorers.
4. *Natural* preserves contain flora and fauna that are representative of natural communities, or contain endangered, threatened, or rare organisms.
5. *Scenic* preserves contain scenic features of scientific or educational value.

Areas nominated for preserve designation must be high quality examples of one or more of the five types of preserves listed. A thorough investigation of proposed preserves is conducted by DNR staff and/or appropriate experts to determine if the area is of preserve quality. A management plan is also completed to determine if the proposed uses and management are consistent with preserve dedication.

Currently there are 96 preserves, encompassing about 10,700 acres. Ownership and management responsibility for the preserves is presented in the list of State Preserves at the end of this report.

Personnel of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources work with the State Preserves Advisory Board to carry out the powers and duties of the Board. John Pearson and Daryl Howell divide the duties of ecologist for the Board.

Chapter 465C requires that a report be submitted to the governor and legislature every two years accounting for the number and status of the preserves in the system and any other pertinent information. This report summarizes activities for the calendar years 2009 and 2010.

State Preserves Advisory Board Meeting Dates and Locations 2011-2012

January 28, 2011	Wallace State Office Building, Des Moines
April 28, 2011	Glenwood, Iowa Tour of Glenwood Archaeological Preserve
July 22, 2011	Ames, Iowa Tour of Ames High Prairie/Pohl Preserve
September 22, 2011	Iowa City, Iowa Tour of Ryerson's Woods
January 10, 2012	Wallace State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa
May 4, 2012	Wallace State Office Building, Des Moines Tour of Strasser Woods Preserve
July 24, 2012	Wallace State Office Building, Des Moines
October 17-18, 2012	Sioux City, Iowa Tour of Gitche Manitou Preserve and Spirit Knoll

State Preserves Advisory Board Members as of December 1, 2012

Wayne Phipps, Chair
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Advisors to the Board as of December 1, 2012

Robert McKay
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123 North Capitol Street
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700 Clinton Street Building
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Iowa City, Iowa 52242

Board Members Whose Term Expired 2011-2012

Deborah Lewis
Stephen Dinsmore

Carl Kurtz
Armando Rosales

Program Purposes (Main Points)

- To preserve examples of each natural community native to Iowa in as undisturbed condition as possible, allowing scientific investigation, interpretation, and acceptable recreational uses.
- To preserve sites representative of each culture that existed in Iowa in a relative undisturbed condition, allowing carefully regulated excavation and basic interpretive activities compatible with a preservation philosophy and with the concerns of the native people.
- To preserve examples of past geological events and maintain these sites in a condition that will allow scientific study and interpretation to occur.
- To preserve sites which commemorate the tenure of humans in Iowa since the advent of the first Euro-American explorers and to maintain these sites in a condition, which will allow a sense of orientation to present and future inhabitants.
- To sponsor research on preserves or potential preserves for purposes of management, acquisition, and interpretation.
- To distribute to the general public, libraries, and colleges information related to preserves in popular or scientific format.
- To assist in surveying Iowa for remaining natural, geological, cultural, historic or scientific areas.

Powers and Duties

The powers and duties of the Advisory Board are listed under Chapter 465C of the Code of Iowa. They include the following:

1. To approve an area as a preserve.
2. To recommend dedication as preserves, of areas owned by the State under the jurisdiction of the Department of Natural Resources.
3. To recommend acquisition of areas for dedication as preserves subject to approval by the Natural Resource Commission.
4. To recommend dedication as preserves, areas owned by other public agencies, private groups, and individuals.

Activities and Accomplishments 2011-2012

Toured two potential preserves during the biennium.

Ryerson's Woods is a 49 acre, wooded tract owned and managed by the Iowa City Parks and Recreation Department. The park was established in 1985 and has been managed to minimize human impact and maintain its natural character. It is located on the south side of Iowa City next to the Johnson County 4-H Fairgrounds. The park is bisected by a ravine and rises 40 to 50 feet above the floodplain of the Iowa River. There is a foot trail consisting of two loops through the preserve. A plant inventory of the park has identified 206 species, with 185 vascular plants and 21 species of bryophytes. A management plan is being drafted by the supporters of preserve nomination.

Spirit Knoll a scenic, 168-acre area of Loess Hills land north of Sioux City with significant archaeological resources and native prairie remnants has been proposed as a new state preserve. Informally known as "Spirit Knoll", it was acquired by the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation and recently transferred to the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. A management plan is presently being drafted by DNR staff with assistance from the Office of the State Archaeologist. A draft management plan will be reviewed by the State preserves Advisory Board in 2013.

Preserve Management

Management activities on Iowa's State Preserves are ongoing and are carried out by the designated preserve managers. Major activities included the following:

- Prescribed burning, mowing, and chemical treatment of stumps on prairie preserves to control woody vegetation encroachment on numerous preserves.

- Use of mechanical and chemical control methods for reed canary grass and other invasive species at several preserves.
- Prairie seed collection for establishment of prairie plantings on buffer areas for preserves and for other public lands.

Research and Inventory Studies 2011 and 2012

A Survey of the Butterflies and Selected Moths of Sylvan Runkel Preserve. Gerald Selby, Biological Consultant.

Ten-Year Analysis of Change in Herbaceous Vegetation in Northeast Iowa Forests (Bixby, Brush Creek Canyon, Mossy Glen State Preserves): Phase I. William Norris, Western New Mexico University, Silver City, NM.

Floristic Inventory of Cedar Hills Sand Prairie. Edwin Freese, Biological Consultant.

Vegetation Management at Selected Hill Prairie and Glade Remnants (Bixby, Bluffton Fir Stand, Brush Creek Canyon, Slinde Mounds, Turkey river Mounds, and Woodman Hollow State Preserves). William Watson, Biological Consultant.

Control of Exotic Plant Species in Wetland Basins at Pilot Knob State Preserve. William Watson, Biological Consultant.

Butterfly and Skipper Inventory Marietta Sand Prairie State Preserve 2011-2012. Frank Olsen, Biological Consultant.

Ten-Year Analysis of Change in Herbaceous Vegetation in Northeast Iowa Forests (Bixby, Brush Creek Canyon, Mossy Glen State Preserves): Phases II and III. William Norris, Western New Mexico University, Silver City, NM.

Butterfly and Skipper, and Moth Inventory Catfish Creek State Preserve 2012-2013. Frank Olsen, Biological Consultant.

Inventory of the Vascular Plants of Anderson Prairie State Preserve. Thomas Rosburg, Drake University.

Land Management Activities at Selected Hill Prairie and Bedrock Glade Remnants within the State Preserves System. William C. Watson, Biological Consultant.

Control of Exotic Plant Species Reed Canary grass and Common Bucktorn Around Dead Man's Lake in Pilot Knob State Preserve. William Watson, Biological Consultant.

Iowa State Preserves December 2012

PRESERVE NAME	PRESERVE TYPE	ACRES	OWNER	MANAGER	COUNTY
A.F. Miller/North Woods	Natural	10	Bremer County	Bremer CCB	Bremer
Ames High Prairie/Pohl Preserve	Natural	22	Ames Unified School District	TNC	Story
Anderson Prairie	Natural, Geological	200	State of Iowa	DNR	Emmet
Behrens Ponds and Woodland	Natural	30	The Nature Conservancy	TNC	Linn
Berry Woods	Natural, Geological	42	The Nature Conservancy	TNC	Warren
Bird Hill	Geological	1	Cerro Gordo County	Cerro Gordo CCB	Cerro Gordo
Bixby	Natural, Geological	183	State of Iowa	DNR	Clayton
Bluffton Fir Stand	Natural, Geological	94	State of Iowa	DNR	Winneshiek
Brush Creek Canyon	Natural, Geological	217	State of Iowa	DNR	Fayette
Brushy Creek	Geological, Natural	260	State of Iowa	DNR	Webster
Cameron Woods	Natural	36	State of Iowa	Scott CCB	Scott
Casey's Paha	Geological	175	State of Iowa	Black Hawk CCB	Tama
Catfish Creek	Geological, Archaeological	600	State of Iowa	DNR	Dubuque
Cayler Prairie	Natural	160	State of Iowa	DNR	Dickinson
Cedar Bluffs Natural Area	Natural, Geological, Scenic	223	Mahaska County	Mahaska CCB	Mahaska
Cedar Hills Sand Prairie	Natural	35	The Nature Conservancy	TNC	Black Hawk
Cheever Lake	Natural	366	State of Iowa	DNR	Emmet
Clay Prairie	Natural	3	University of Northern Iowa	UNI	Butler
Claybank Forest	Geological, Natural	56	Cerro Gordo County	Cerro Gordo CCB	Cerro Gordo
Coldwater Cave	Geological, Natural	60	State of Iowa	DNR	Winneshiek
Crossman Prairie	Natural	10	The Nature Conservancy	TNC	Howard
Decorah Ice Cave	Geological, Natural	3	City of Decorah	City of Decorah	Winneshiek
Derald Dinesen Prairie	Natural	20	U.S. Government	Shelby CCB	Shelby
Doolittle Prairie	Natural	25	State of Iowa	Story CCB	Story
Eureka Woods	Natural	90	Private	Private	Greene
Fallen Rock	Natural, Geological	122	State of Iowa	Hardin CCB	Hardin
Fish Farm Mounds	Archaeological	3	State of Iowa	DNR	Allamakee
Five Ridge Prairie	Natural, Geological	789	The Nature Conservancy	Plymouth CCB	Plymouth
Fleming Woods	Natural	38	Poweshiek County	Poweshiek CCB	Poweshiek

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PRESERVE NAME	PRESERVE TYPE	ACRES	OWNER	MANAGER	COUNTY
Fort Atkinson	Archaeological	5	State of Iowa	DNR	Winneshek
Fossil and Prairie Park	Natural, Geological	292	Floyd County	Floyd CCB	Floyd
Pellett Memorial Woods	Natural	19	State of Iowa	Cass CCB	Cass
Freda Haffner	Natural, Geological	110	The Nature Conservancy	TNC	Dickinson
Gitchie Manitou	Natural	91	State of Iowa	DNR	Lyon
Glenwood Archaeological	Archaeological	907	State of Iowa	Mills CCB	Mills
Hanging Bog	Natural	16	The Nature Conservancy	TNC	Linn
Hardin City Woodland	Natural	25	State of Iowa	Hardin CCB	Hardin
Hartley Fort	Archaeological	2	Private	Private	Allamakee
Hartman Bluff	Natural	48	Black Hawk County	Black Hawk CCB	Black Hawk
Hayden Prairie	Natural	239	State of Iowa	DNR	Howard
Hoffman Prairie	Natural	36	The Nature Conservancy	TNC	Cerro Gordo
Indian Bluffs Primitive Area	Archaeological, Natural	845	Private	Private	Jones
Indian Fish Trap	Archaeological	1	State of Iowa	Amana Society	Iowa
Kalsow Prairie	Natural	160	State of Iowa	DNR	Pocahontas
Kish-Ke-Kosh Prairie	Natural	17	State of Iowa	Jasper CCB	Jasper
Lamson Woods	Natural	20	City of Fairfield	City of Fairfield	Jefferson
Liska-Stanek Prairie	Natural	20	Webster County	Webster CCB	Webster
Little Maquoketa River Mounds	Archaeological	42	State of Iowa	Dubuque CCB	Dubuque
Malanaphy Springs	Geological, Natural	64	State of Iowa	DNR	Winneshek
Malchow Mounds	Archaeological	6	State of Iowa	DNR	Des Moines
Manikowski Prairie	Natural, Geological	40	Clinton County	Clinton CCB	Clinton
Mann Wilderness Area	Natural	103	Hardin County	Hardin CCB	Hardin
Marietta Sand Prairie	Natural	20	Marshall County	Marshall CCB	Marshall
Mericle Woods	Natural	132	State of Iowa	DNR	Tama
Merril A. Stainbrook	Geological	33	U.S. Government	Corps of Engineers	Johnson
Merritt Forest	Natural	20	State of Iowa	DNR	Clayton
Montauk	Historical, Natural	46	State of Iowa	DCA	Fayette
Mossy Glen	Natural, Geological	80	State of Iowa	DNR	Clayton

Iowa State Preserves December 2012

PRESERVE NAME	PRESERVE TYPE	ACRES	OWNER	MANAGER	COUNTY
Mount Pisgah Cemetery	Historical	1	Church	Union CCB	Union
Mount Talbot	Natural	90	State of Iowa	DNR	Plymouth
Nestor Stiles Prairie	Natural	10	State of Iowa	Cherokee CCB	Cherokee
Ocheyedan Mound	Geological, Natural	24	Osceola CCB	Osceola CCB	Osceola
Old State Quarry	Geological	8	U.S. Government	Corps of Engineers	Johnson
Palisades-Dows	Natural, Geological	330	State of Iowa	Linn CCB	Linn
Pecan Grove	Natural	17	State of Iowa	DNR	Muscatine
Perkins Prairie	Natural	30	Private	Private	Greene
Pilot Grove Historical	Historical, Natural	7	State of Iowa	Iowa CCB	Iowa
Pilot Knob State Park	Natural, Geological	369	State of Iowa	DNR	Hancock
Retz Memorial Woods	Natural, Geological	49	The Nature Conservancy	TNC	Clayton
Roberts Creek	Natural, Geological	13	State of Iowa	DNR	Cedar
Rock Creek Island	Geological	60	State of Iowa	Cedar CCB	Cedar
Rock Island Area	Natural	17	Linn County	Linn CCB	Linn
Roggman Boreal Slopes	Natural	20	The Nature Conservancy	TNC	Clayton
Rolling Thunder Prairie	Natural	123	Warren County	Warren CCB	Warren
St. James Lutheran Church	Historical	1	State of Iowa	DNR	Winneshiak
Savage Memorial Woods	Natural	12	The Nature Conservancy	TNC	Henry
Searryl's Cave	Natural, Geological	43	State of Iowa	DNR	Jones
Sheeder Prairie	Natural	25	State of Iowa	DNR	Guthrie
Silver Lake Fen	Natural, Geological	10	State of Iowa	DNR	Dickinson
Silvers-Smith Woods	Natural	20	The Nature Conservancy	TNC	Dallas
Slinde Mounds	Archaeological, Natural	32	State of Iowa	DNR	Allamakee
Starr's Cave	Natural, Geological	189	State of Iowa	Des Moines CCB	Des Moines
Steele Prairie	Natural	200	State of Iowa	Cherokee CCB	Cherokee
Stinson Prairie	Natural	32	Kossuth County	Kossuth CCB	Kossuth
Strasser Woods	Natural	40	State of Iowa	DNR	Polk
Sylvan Runkel	Natural	330	State of Iowa	DNR	Monona
Toolesboro	Archaeological	3	State of Iowa	DCA	Louisa

Iowa State Preserves December 2012

PRESERVE NAME	PRESERVE TYPE	ACRES	OWNER	MANAGER	COUNTY
Turin Loess Hills	Natural, Geological	200	State of Iowa	DNR	Monona
Turkey River Mounds	Archaeological, Natural	62	State of Iowa	DNR	Clayton
Vincent Bluff	Scenic	36	City of Council Bluffs	City of Council Bluffs	Pottawattamie
White Pine Hollow	Natural, Geological	712	State of Iowa	DNR	Dubuque
Williams Prairie	Natural	30	The Nature Conservancy	TNC	Johnson
Wittrock Indian Village	Archaeological	6	State of Iowa	DNR	O'Brien
Woodland Mounds	Natural, Archaeological	195	Warren County	Warren CCB	Warren
Woodman Hollow	Natural, Archaeological	63	State of Iowa	DNR	Webster
Woodthrush Woods	Natural	25	City of Fairfield	City of Fairfield	Jefferson

DNR = Department of Natural Resources

DCA = Department of Cultural Affairs

CCB = County Conservation Board

TNC = The Nature Conservancy

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Front Cover: Sweat Bee (*Augochlorella*) on the flowerhead of a Yellow Coneflower (*Ratibida pinnata*), photo by John Pearson